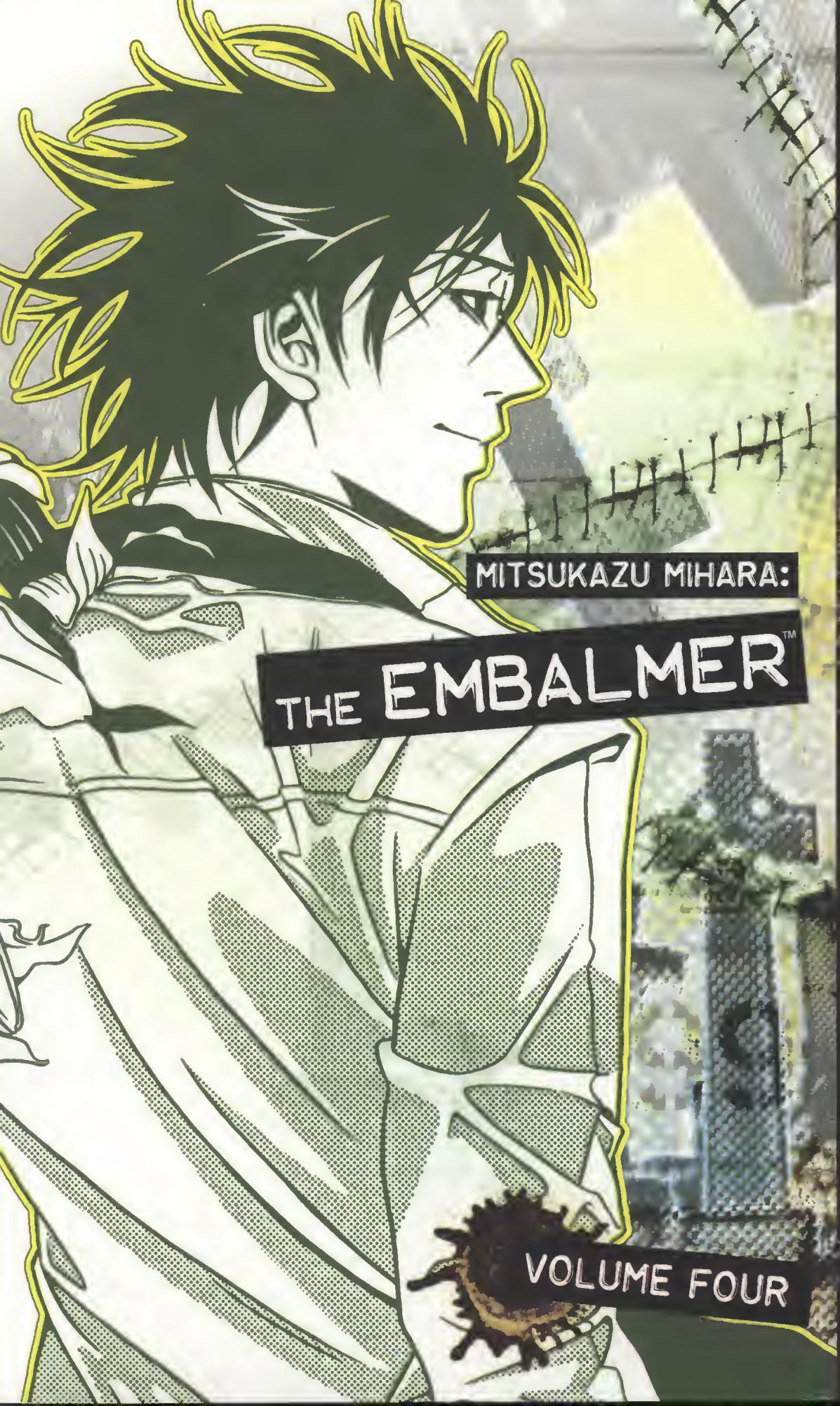

TOKYOPOP®

THE EMBALMER

Vol. 4

by Mitsukazu Mihara

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Azuki Natsui

Shinjyurou Mamiya

Shinjyurou Mamiya is an embalmer—a rarity in Japan, and something that does not come without its share of misconceptions. He lives in a former church that's rented to him by the family of Azuki Natsui, a strong-willed young woman who has befriended the embalmer.

Renji Kobayashi

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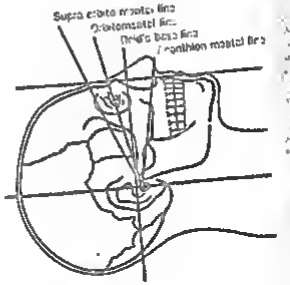
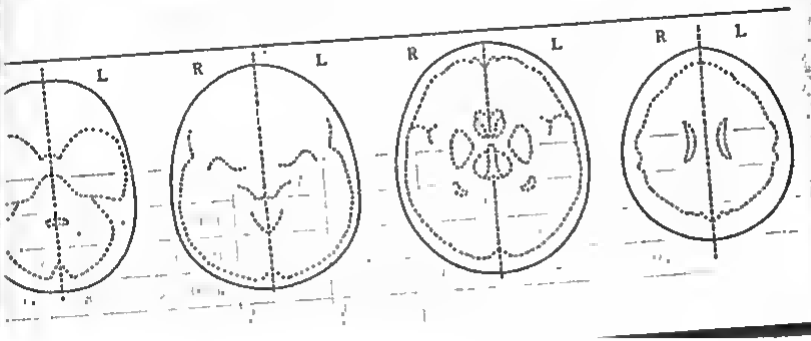
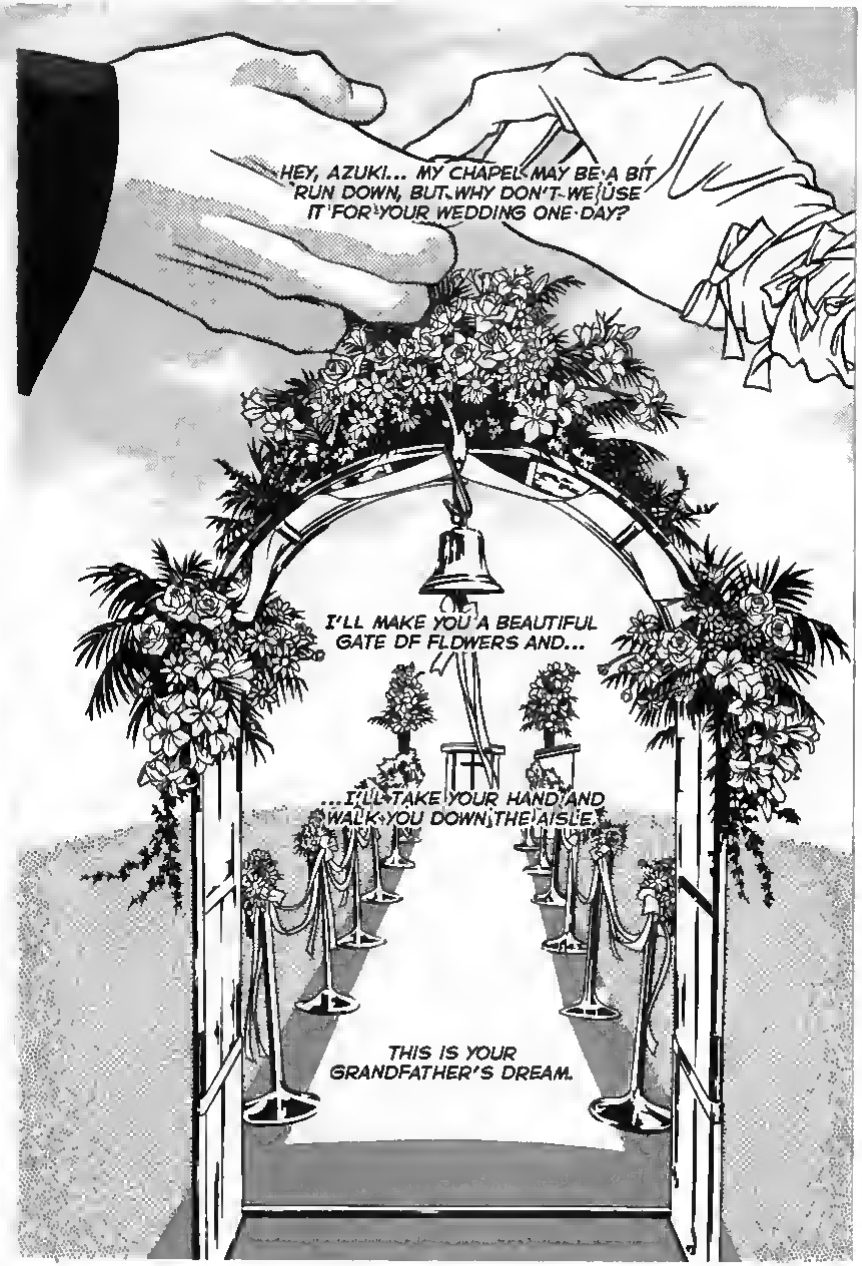
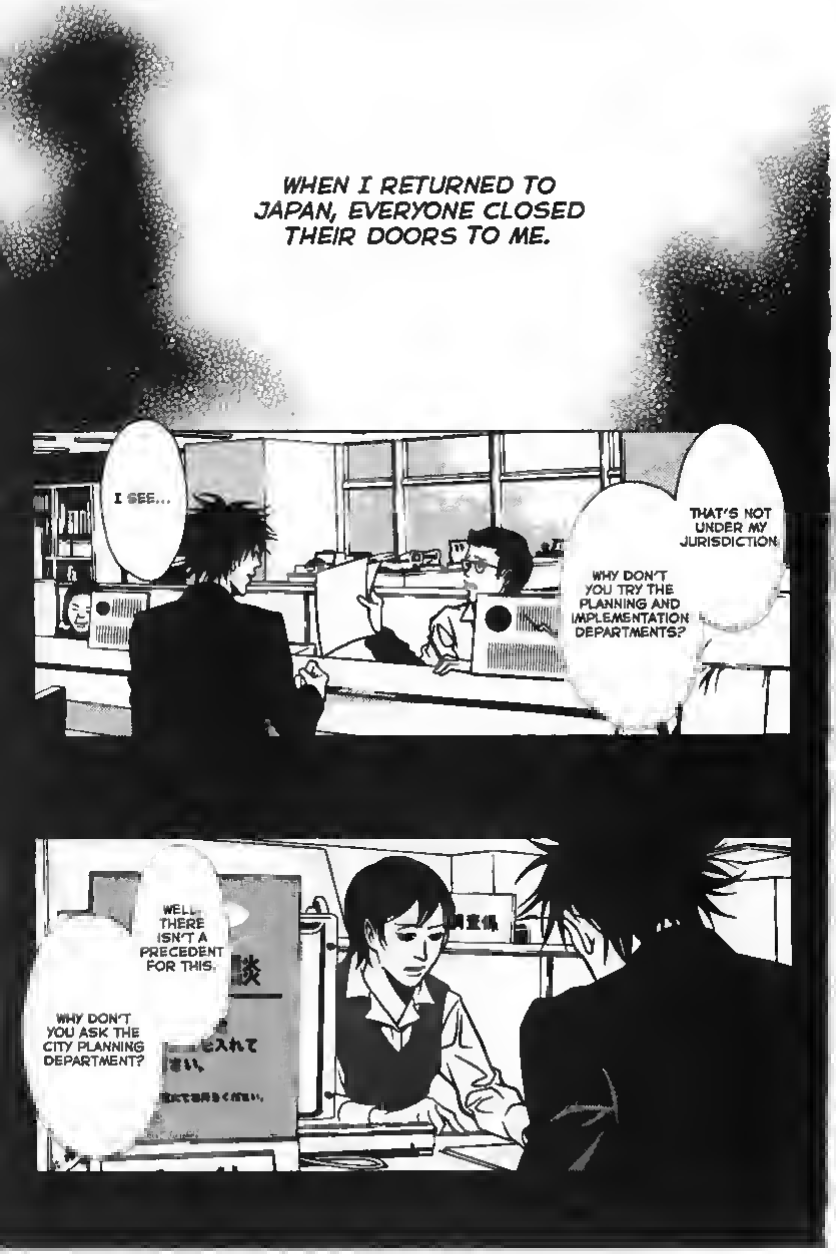




SQUEAK
AZUKI?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SHINJYUROU, THAT CORPSE-- ERR, BIKE. ISN'T IT TIME FOR A NEW ONE?!
Or at least a little oil?
NAH, THIS BIKE IS A CLASSIC.
Hmm
HEY, QUIT IGNORING ME!
SQUEAK
YOU AND THAT RUSTY OLD BIKE! ENOUGH ALREADY!
Heh heh.
AND CHASING YOU AROUND WITH IT IS KINDA HILARIOUS.
HE KEEPS THIS UP AND SOMEONE'S GOING TO BE EMBALMING HIM.
Heh heh.


HEY, AZUKI... MY CHAPEL MAY BE A BIT RUN DOWN, BUT WHY DON'T WE USE IT FOR YOUR WEDDING ONE DAY?
I'LL MAKE YOU A BEAUTIFUL GATE OF FLOWERS AND...
...I'LL TAKE YOUR HAND AND WALK YOU DOWN THE AISLE.
THIS IS YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DREAM.


WHEN I RETURNED TO JAPAN, EVERYONE CLOSED THEIR DOORS TO ME.
I SEE...
THAT'S NOT UNDER MY JURISDICTION.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENTS?
WELL... THERE ISN'T A PRECEDENT FOR THIS.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT?

WHAT?
IT REMINDS ME OF WHEN WE FIRST MET.
THIS BIKE IS MY PARTNER. HE HELPED ME OUT BACK WHEN I WAS TRYING SET UP MY LAB.
OH... REALLY?
I OWE THE OLD MAN SO MUCH.
HE WAS AN AMAZING GUY.
YEAH.
OH, HE MEANS GRANDPA.

SIGH...
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A GOVERNMENT AGENCY? THEY NEVER FAIL TO PROVIDE YOU WITH PLENTY OF RED TAPE!
BLACK ARM COVERS... PROBABLY TO KEEP THE INK OFF THEIR SLEEVES!
OH, JOY.
IN ENGLISH THEY'D SAY...
...WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
HEY!
YOU'LL CATCH COLD OUT THERE! WHY DON'T YOU WAIT HERE FOR A BIT?

IT'S ALWAYS THE THINGS YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT YOU REGRET LOSING THE MOST.
SO FATHER... DO YOU WANT A CONFESSION?
"FATHER" IS EMBARRASSING. CALL ME NATUSI...
...AND IF YOU DON'T MIND AN OLD GUY LIKE ME, I'LL LISTEN.

I SEE... EMBALMING...
THAT'S A GOOD JOB, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT SINCE I GOT BACK TO JAPAN.
ARGH! I'M SOAKED !!

.....
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SCRIPTURE?
MY DAD USED TO TAKE ME TO CHURCH, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH
PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE PAID ATTENTION.

?!
GRANDPA, WHO IS THIS WEIRDO?
THIS IS MY GRAND-DAUGHTER
AZUKI, YO... DON'T NEED TO CLEAN TODAY. GO ON HOME.
WHAT? HEY! I WORRY ABOUT YOU! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME!
UMM... I'LL BE GOING NOW.
The rain's pretty let up.
MR. MAMIYA, WAS IT?
"THEY THAT SOW IN TEARS SHALL REAP IN -OY."
IT'S A VERSE FROM
I BELIEVE YOUR EFFORTS WILL BE REWARDED.

HEY!
しゃばー
IT STARTED RAINING ALL OF A SUDDEN! THE WEATHERMAN TOTALLY LIED!
Wow.
Whoa. Green eyes!
YOU SHOULDN'T WRING OUT YOUR SKIRT SOUP IN A HOLY PLACE.
DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS TEACH YOU THAT?

Sigh
EVEN REALTORS ARE NO HELP.
Oh...
I GUESS I'M NOT DONE SOWING YET. THANKS ANYWAY.
IF ANYTHING WERE TO... HAPPEN... WELL, WE'D HAVE TROUBLE RESELLING THE PROPERTY.
?
THANK YOU. THIS WAS A NICE PLACE TO KEEP DRY.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO CONFESSION AGAIN.
YEAH... WE DON'T HANDLE PROPERTIES LIKE THAT

NO, I JUST... I WAS... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
HUH?
YOU'RE THE ONE FOLLOWING ME, AREN'T YOU?
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
KID?! KID?! YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! YOU PERVERT!
YOU SHOULDN'T WEAR UNDERWEAR THAT SHOWS THROUGH YOUR CLOTHES.
WHA...
RELAX. NO ONE WOULD ASSAULT A KID THAT WEARS A CHERRY PRINT BRA.

NICE HOT SOUP...
THAT REMINDS ME. WHAT DID THAT GUY MEAN?
Skirt soup... What a weird thing to say.
MY PORK MISO TURNED OUT REALLY GOOD TODAY!
EEK!!
OH.

HEY! COME ON! I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE MY FIRST CLIENT!
IT'S PROBABLY HIS HEAD.
CALL 911! HURRY!
SEE! THIS IS WHY I KEEP TELLING YOU TO COME LIVE WITH US!
GRANDPA!
...HUH?
GRA--!
DON'T TOUCH HIM!
?!
GRANDPA? I CAME TO--

YOU CAN USE MY CHURCH.
NO.

THE CHURCH MEANS A LOT TO ME. IF I CAN'T KEEP IT...I'D LIKE IT TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.
I BELIEVE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE, AND I'VE ALREADY LOST THE SON THAT WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED ME.

I HAVE ONE CONDITION, THOUGH.

IT'S OKAY, AKO.
DON'T YOU CALL TSUKIMICHI NOW. I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP IF HE COMES OVER.
DON'T CRY, MOM! THE DOCTOR SAID HE NEEDS REST.

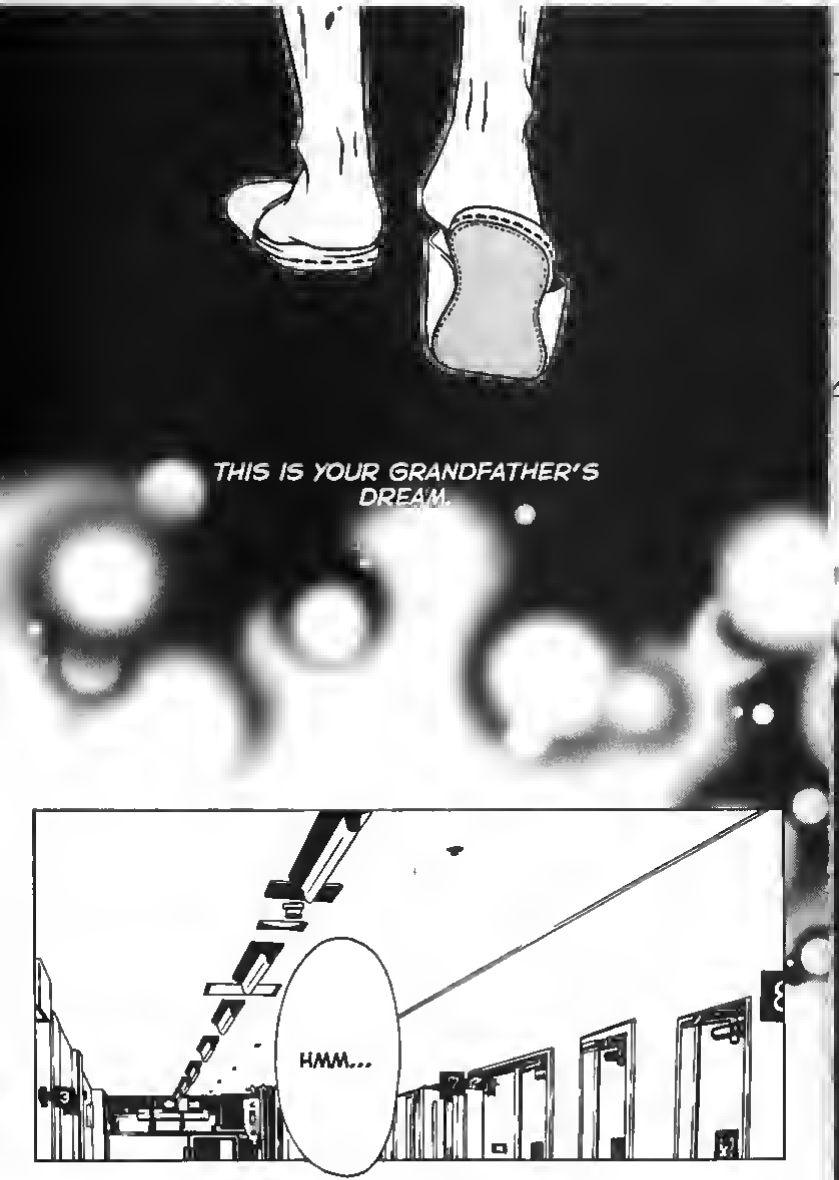
COULD YOU BOTH LEAVE THE ROOM FOR A BIT? THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO MR. MAMIYA ABOUT.
HAVE YOU FOUND A PLACE TO WORK?

I UNDERSTAND. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
THAT'S WHY HE'S STAYED THERE ALONE FOR SO LONG.
GOOD ...
I HAD A FEELING YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
NOW, I CAN FINALLY REST AT EASE.

YOU CAN USE THE INTERIOR HOWEVER YOU WISH... BUT THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH...
PLEASE LEAVE IT THE WAY IT IS.
I MADE A PROMISE TO AZUKI A LONG TIME AGO...
...THAT SHE COULD HAVE HER WEDDING AT THAT CHURCH... AND I'D WALK HER DOWN THE AISLE.
OH, I SEE...

JUST A MINUTE, MR. NATSUI.
THAT'S A DEAD END. IT'S THIS WAY.
GRAND-PA?!
OH, LOOK! YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER'S HERE.
MOM, HERE ARE THE NEW TOWELS AND--
A-AZUKI, GRANDPA'S ACTING STRANGE.

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO LIVE TO PROTECT OTHERS INSTEAO OF LETTING THEMSELVES BE PROTECTEO.


THIS IS YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DREAM.
HMM...

...ARE YOU?
WHO...
I PROMISE. LET'S SHAKE PINKIES ON IT, AZUKI.
PROMISE, GRANDPA?

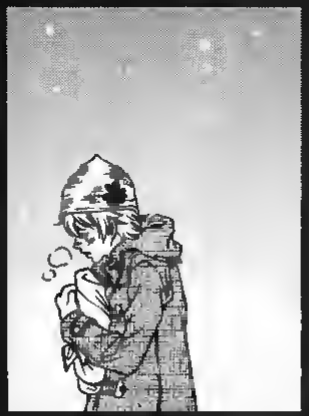
IT'S ALZHEIMER'S.
OCCASIONALLY, IT WILL SET IN QUICKLY AFTER A LARGE STROKE LIKE THIS.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, AZUKI?! WE'VE ALREADY LOST PAPA!
BE STRONG, AZUKI. YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG FOR MOM.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MOM. IT WILL!
OH?
HEY, HEY, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE LYING DOWN?
OLD MAN NATSUI!
O-OH, YES, THANK YOU.
ARE YOUR KIDS DOING WELL?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OKAY NOW, LET'S GET YOU BACK TO BED
OH, DEAR.
YES, WHAT IS IT NOW?

PLEASE MAKE SURE THE FLOOR IS LEVEL BECAUSE I'M PUTTING MEDICAL MACHINERY IN.
SEE... I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD REPAINT THIS WALL.
NO.
THE EXTERIOR STAYS EXACTLY AS IT IS.
HUMBUG
ガガガ
WHIIIIRRL
カラカン カンカン

HE WAS A PRIEST, RIGHT?
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE CELIBATE FOR SO LONG?
IT'S WEIRD, ISN'T IT? WHENEVER HE SEES A WOMAN HE GRABS HER HAND AND WON'T LET GO.
Heh heh...
NOW, MR. NATSUI, YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT.
Heh...
Heh...
OH NO.

EVERY DAY ON HER WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, SHE WALKED BY THE CHURCH.

I COULD TELL FROM HER EXPRESSION THAT HER GRANDFATHER WAS GETTING WORSE.



中野総合病院救急入口
!
A KID LIKE HER WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE SEEING SOMEONE SHE LOVES LIKE THAT.
I'M A LITTLE LOW ON SOME CHEMICALS, BUT IT'LL HAVE TO DO...EH?
WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENED, I WAS GOING TO DO THE OLD MAN'S EMBALMING.
THE LIFE PROLONGING TREATMENTS THEY GIVE TO BEDRIDDEN PATIENTS ARE HARSH.

YOU SHOULD NEVER PRETEND
EXIST.

I DON'T WANT TO PRETEND HIS LAST MOMENTS NEVER HAPPENED.

SNIFF!
THE NURSE IS GOING TO CLEAN HIM UP SOON.
MOM... SHE'S WITH THE DOCTOR... DOING THE PAPERWORK AND STUFF.
YOUR GRAND-PA. HE...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WAIT OUT-SIDE ...
THAT'S OKAY.

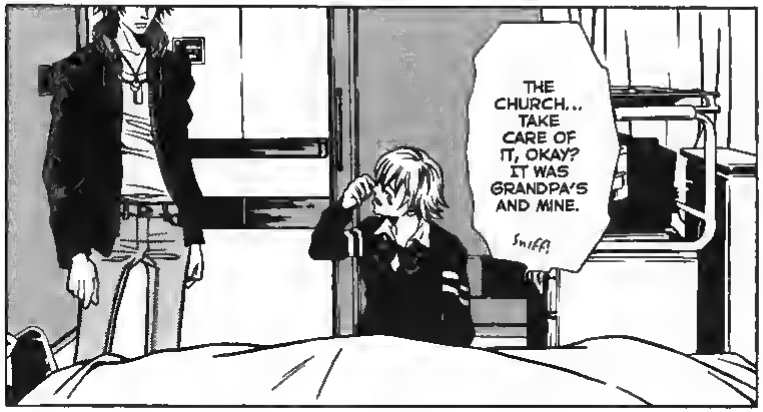
GRANDPA TRIED SO HARD TO KEEP BREATHING RIGHT UNTIL THE VERY END.
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO LOOK AT HIM LIKE THIS...
...SO I DON'T FORGET HOW HARD HE TRIED TO LIVE.

THAT WAS THE DAY...

...I LEARNED THAT THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T NEED EMBALMING.

THAT TOOK ME YEARS TO LEARN...

...BUT THIS KID...



SURE.

THAT LONG, LONG HALLWAY...
SO THAT WAS IT. THAT WHOLE TIME YOU...
...WERE JUST TRYING TO TAKE HER HAND.
AN AISLE THAT WAS ONLY VISIBLE TO HIM.
YOU WERE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER, EH, OLD MAN?

SHINJYU-ROU...
HA HA...
THANK YOU!
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT. I STILL HAVE MY BIG BROTHER, YOU KNOW!
WANT ME TO WALK WITH YOU?
CREAK
CREAK
THE SUNSET'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
It's so red.
OH, AZUKI. ONCE AGAIN YOU'VE COMPLETELY MISUNDER-STOOD ME.
You thirty little kid
UNTIL THAT DAY COMES...
I HAD A FEELING YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
CREAK
.....
QUEEE

Embalming 20
Gate of Flowers
End

THE ANGELS WILL COME FOR ME.

An angel's scythe
This home page is Aria's coffin.
After my suicide, pictures of my corpse will be posted.
The angels will come for me in 41 days.
CLICK CLACK
CLICK

I HATE MY CLASSMATES. THEY DON'T GET ME AT ALL.

THEY DON'T GET THAT I NEVER WANT TO BE OVER 30. I DON'T WANT TO BE AN OLD LADY.

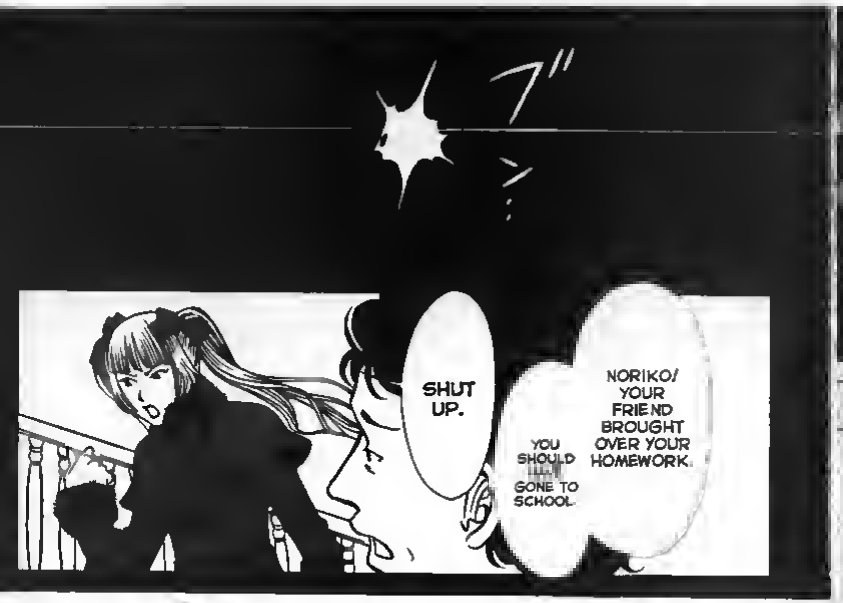
UGLY BAGGED EYES AND WRINKLED SKIN.

GREY HAIR, MENOPAUSE?! SCREW THAT.

NOTE: Tsubaki was the dollmaker from Vol. 2. —Ed

PLEASE PUT THE BODY IN A WESTERN-STYLE COFFIN.
I ALSO HAVE NOTES AND PICTURES FOR THE MAKEUP.
IT MUST BE REALLY PRETTY!
THESE ARE THE CLOTHES AND SHOES AND...
...MAKE SURE YOU TIE THE HEADDRESS RIBBONS BEHIND THE EARS, OKAY?
ARIA'S GOING TO DIE ON VALENTINES DAY
I REALLY WANTED CHRISTMAS, BUT I COULDN'T UPDATE MY HOMEPAGE IN TIME AND--
OH, HERE'S MY CARD.
AND THIS IS FOR...?
ME.
ARIA? ARE YOU CHINESE?
I see...
THAT'S MY LIVE NAME.
Old man ☆

ARE THOSE COLOR CONTACTS?
ARIA WANTS GREY ONES, YOU KNOW.
KID, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK--
HMM...
I GUESS THIS'LL DO.
ARIA'S A CUSTOMER!
Shoo! Shoo!
US GROWNUPS ARE BUSY WORKING, LITTLE GIRL!
I'VE COME TO ARRANGE AN EMBALMING.


7"
SHUT UP.
NORIKO! YOUR FRIEND BROUGHT OVER YOUR HOMEWORK.
YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO SCHOOL.

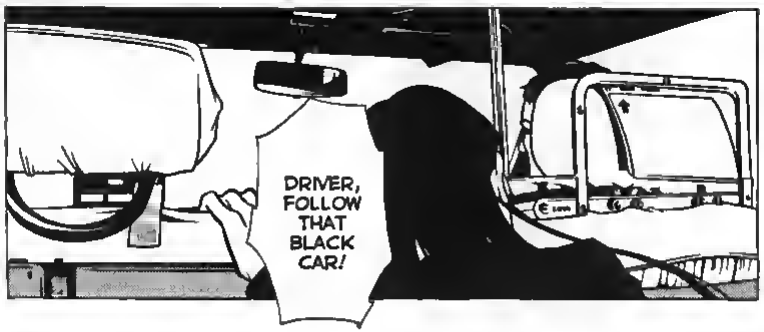
OH, WOULD YOU LAY OFF?!
YOU LOOK SO MUCH BETTER WHEN YOU DON'T WEAR SO MUCH
PLEASE, NORIKO, CAN YOU TRY WEARING LESS MAKEUP?

ARIA WANTS TO BE A PRETTY CORPSE!
JUST LIKE A DOLL. I SAW IT ON A WEB SITE. YOU CAN DO THAT RIGHT?

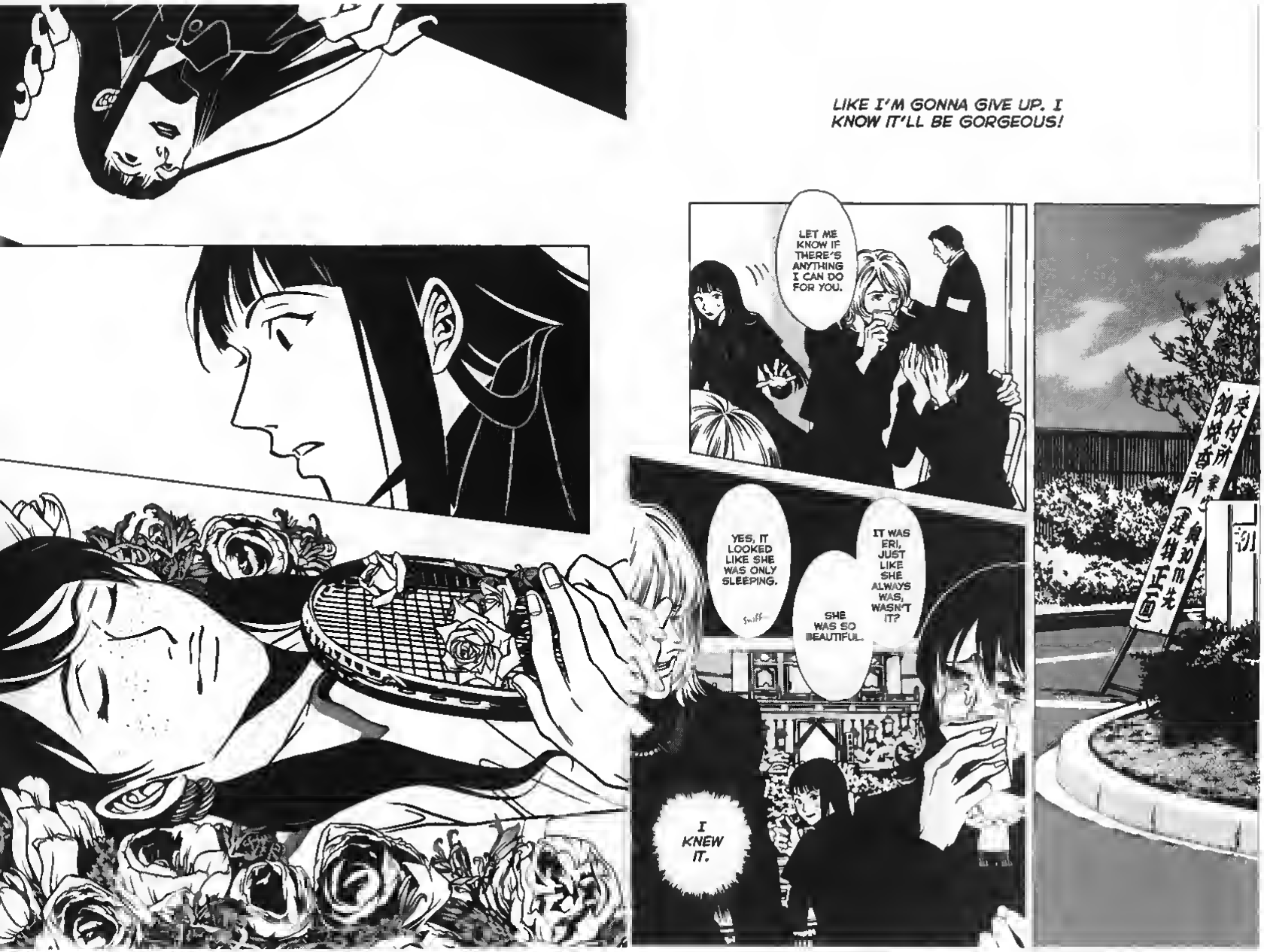
AND THEN, EVEN AFTER ARIA DIES, ARIA'S WEBPAGE WITH ARIA'S PICTURE ON IT WILL LAST FOR ALL ETERNITY--

GO HOME. THAT'S NOT WHAT EMBALMING'S FOR.
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

THE FAMILY SHOULD BE REALLY PLEASED.
RESTORED A LOT. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE LIGHTING.
THANK YOU, MAMIYA.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO...
カラン
...THE CORPSES OF YOUNG WOMEN.
YES!


DRIVER, FOLLOW THAT BLACK CAR!

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS BEAUTY. NOT THE SORT OF BEAUTY THAT I ENJOY, AT LEAST.
CLICK CLICK
キャッシングの
Angelic Forum
No.026 Author: PrincesaDestruction WEB 2004/2/1 20:56 RES
Are you really gonna commit suicide?
If you are, I so look up to you. ^^\(≧▽≦)/^^
I have a site too! Please link me!
No.025 Author:
Stupid Hurry up and die already
CLICK CLACK
The angels will come for me in 13 days.


LIKE I'M GONNA GIVE UP. I KNOW IT'LL BE GORGEOUS!
LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU.
YES, IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ONLY SLEEPING.
Sniff
SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.
IT WAS ERI, JUST LIKE SHE ALWAYS WAS, WASN'T IT?
I KNEW IT.

YOU'RE WELCOME.
DON'T HESITATE TO CALL IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES UP.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
NO, IT'S OKAY. THE MAKEUP CRUMBLES WHEN IT GETS TOO DRY.
IF IT MAKES THE FAMILY FEEL BETTER, THEN I'D DO IT 100 TIMES OVER.
THAT'S PART OF THE JOB.
THE FAMILY NEEDS TO FEEL LIKE THEY ARE TAKING CARE OF HER. IT'S IMPORTANT.
FIXING THE MAKEUP WON'T CHANGE THINGS, BUT...

#27
SURE.
SORRY ABOUT THIS. THE FAMILY INSISTED ON IT.
WHAT?! THIS ISN'T WHAT I...
SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY MAKEUP ON.
UH... SHE'S... CRUMBLING A LITTLE HERE...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SFFT
HOW'S THAT?
OH... SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
sniff!

REALLY, THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME LIMIT TO YOUR STUPIDITY.
I WANTED TO SEE REAL EMBALMING.
MAYBE IT'S JUST A CURIOSITY FOR YOU, BUT FOR THAT FAMILY, WHAT THEY SEE TODAY COULD AFFECT THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!
ブッスー
.....
MAYBE YOU SUCK OR SOMETHING?
WHATEVER. SHE LOOKED SO... NORMAL. I DON'T GET IT.
YEAH.
HEY, YOU!
WAAAH?!
EEk!
EEk!
AND SHUT UP, WILL YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
HMM?
Oh, please. You're so obvious!
You've mistaken me for someone else!

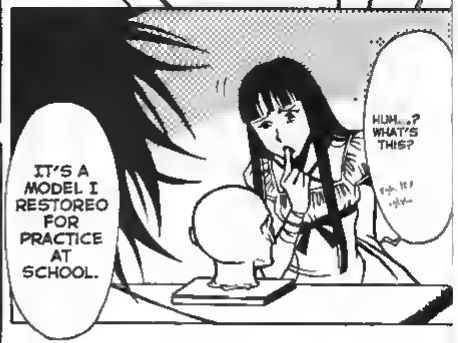
THAT'S WHY I DREW HER FRECKLES ON TOP OF THE MAKEUP. IT WAS TO MAKE HER LOOK NATURAL.
THE CORPSE YOU SAW WAS A GIRL WHO LOVED SPORTS AND HATED MAKEUP.

Sigh...

SERIOUSLY, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE TO RESTORE THAT?
AND I REALLY CAN'T APPROVE OF STUFF LIKE THIS.
TO THE FAMILY, EVEN THE FAULTS ARE DEAR.

EMBALMING ISN'T MEANT TO MAKE "BEAUTIFUL" CORPSES.
SOME-TIMES YOU RECREATE WRINKLES OR DISCOLOR-ATIONS LIKE THIS.
OR IF THE PERSON WERE REALLY STERN, I'D TURN DOWN THE CORNERS OF THEIR MOUTH ON PURPOSE.

カ!


HUM...? WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A MODEL I RESTORED FOR PRACTICE AT SCHOOL.

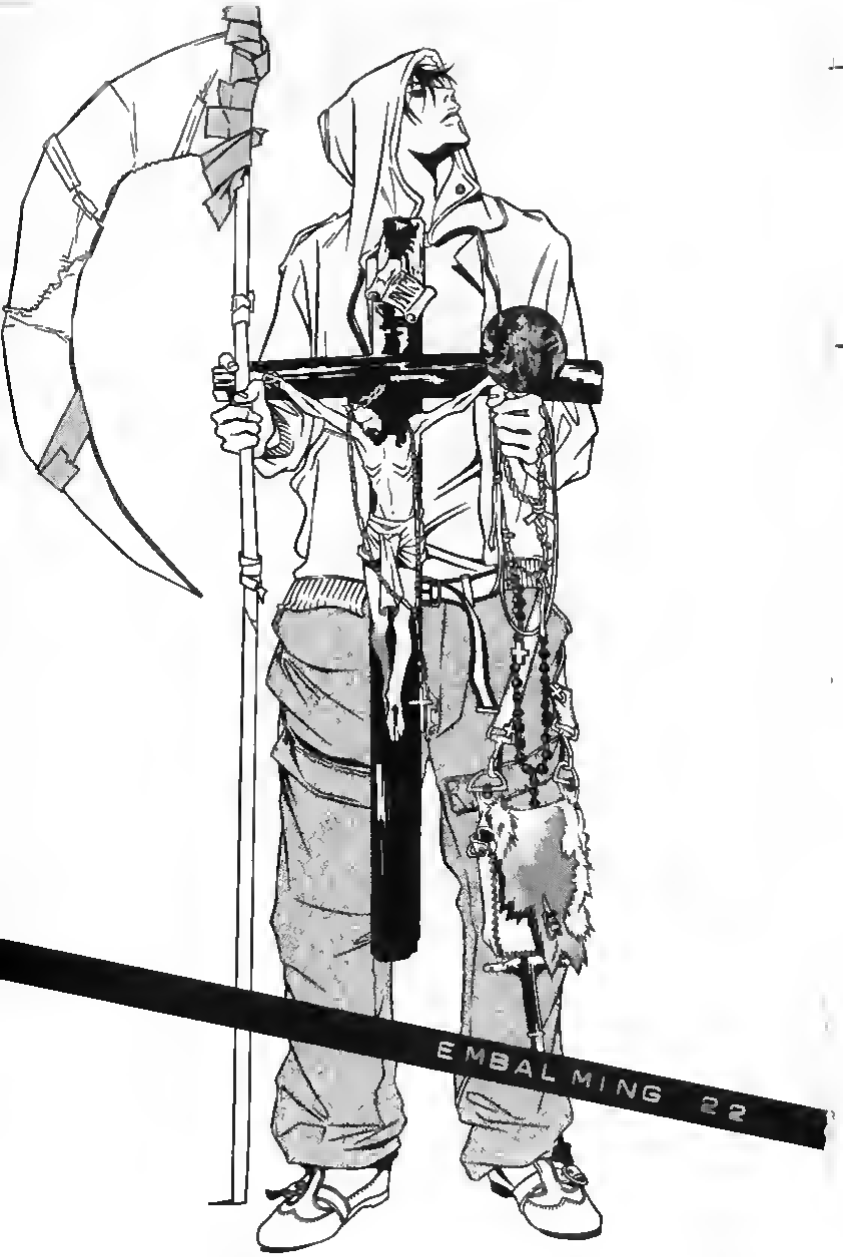
THE WOUNDS ON A CORPSE CAN ONLY BE HEALED WITH PUTTY...
...BUT THE WOUNDS ON A LIVING BODY BLEED AND SCAB OVER.
IT'S THE SIGN THAT YOUR BODY IS CRYING OUT DESPERATELY FIGHTING TO STAY ALIVE.
I'M HOME.
STUPID. FOR AN EMBALMER, HE'S TOTALLY CLUELESS ABOUT HIS JOB.

MAYBE I DON'T KNOW WHAT "PRETTY" IS AND I DON'T INTEND TO LECTURE YOU.
IT'S JUST THAT... TO ME, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BODIES...
Hmph!
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME NOT TO HURT MY BODY?! IT'S MINE! YOU'RE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE! NO ONE UNDERSTANDS!
MAYBE NOT.
...ARE THE ONES THAT ARE STILL ALIVE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERYONE?!

The angels will come for me in 1 day.

THIS IS FROM THE FIELD TRIP. WE ALL HELPED CHOOSE IT.
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
YOUR FRIEND BROUGHT YOU A SOUVENIR.
NORIKO! PERFECT TIMING!
WHAT?



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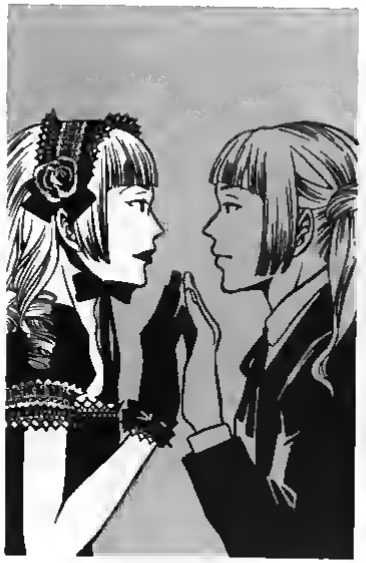
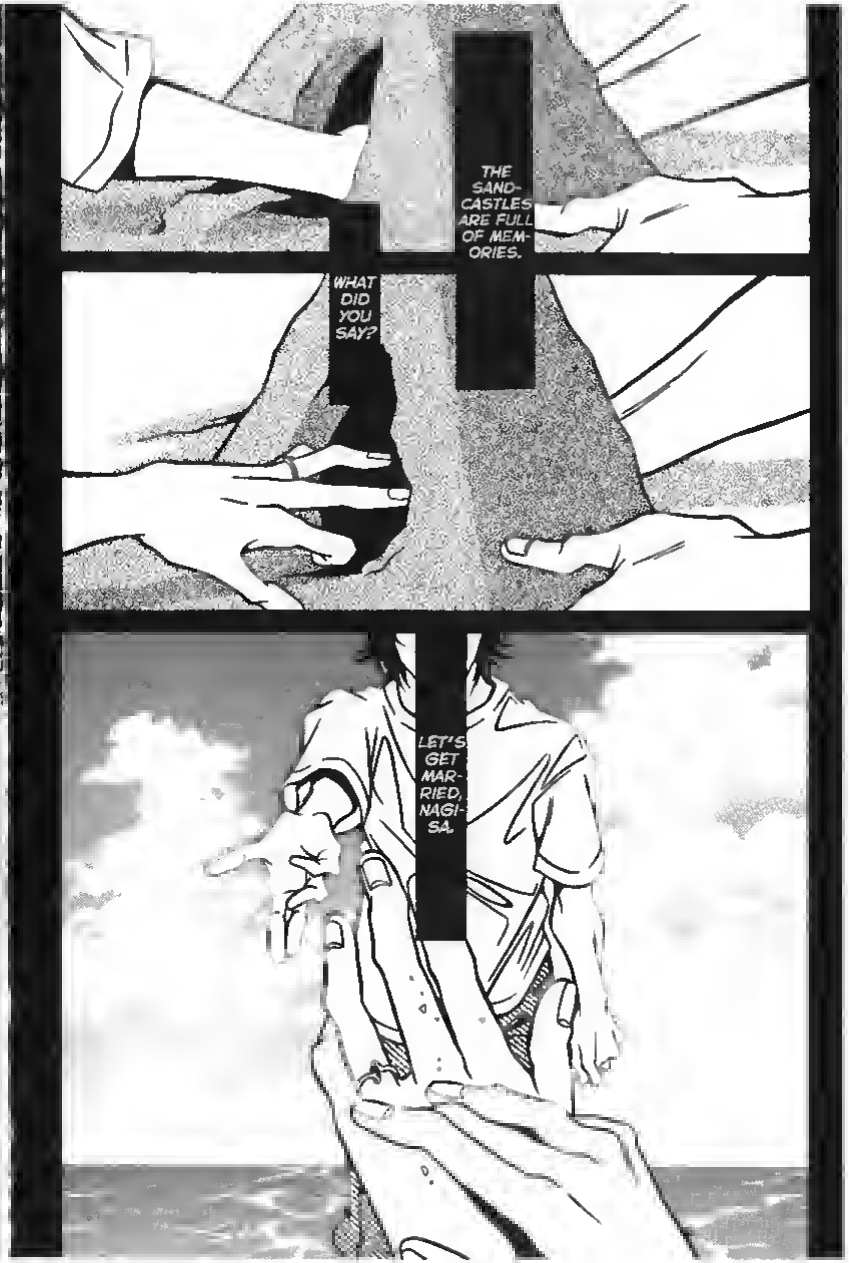


Embalming 21
Gothic Lolita Complex
End

WE'LL BE TOGETHER UNTIL WE OIE. NO... EVEN AFTER WE OIE. FOREVER.
THE BODY DISAPPEARED?!
NO WAY. MAYBE IT WAS A CHEAP COFFIN AND THE BOTTOM CAME OFF OR SOMETHING.
HEY, HEY, RENJI, CALM DOWN.
AGH! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK TO YOU!
QUIT JOKING AROUND. ONE OF THE MOURNERS IS MISSING, TOO. IT'S CRAZY HERE.


THE SAND-CASTLES ARE FULL OF MEM-ORIES.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
LET'S GET MAR-RIED, NAGI-SA.

NAGISA... PLEASE FIND MY NAGISA!
BOTH OF THEM WERE GONE WHEN I WENT TO TAKE MY TURN WITH THE INCENSE!
THE COFFIN LID WAS OPEN AND...
EX CUSE ME...
...JUST IN CASE, WE SHOULD ALSO CONTACT THE POLICE--
ALL OUR EMPLOYEES ARE SEARCHING RIGHT NOW, BUT...
WHAT?! MY JYUNICHI IS A RESPONSIBLE MAN! HE EVEN WORKS AT CITY HALL!
PLEASE, BOTH OF YOU...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR SON? HOW CAN HE BE SO IRRESPONSIBLE? WHY DOESN'T HE PROPERLY MOURN OUR DAUGHTER?!
TA-TAKIMOTO'S CAR IS MISSING.

NAGISA TAKIMOTO, 21, HEART ATTACK... A NEWLYWED, LOOKS LIKE.
HER HUSBAND WAS THE CLIENT, WASN'T HE?
Well, you called me, you know
CLACK
.....
SLURP
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
町屋斎場

4"
HE DIDN'T ...
HE DIDN'T TAKE HER, DID HE?
DOES ANYONE HAVE AN IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE?
A PLACE THAT WAS SPECIAL TO THEM?
MAYBE... YES, I THINK SO...
I WON'T LET ANYONE HAVE YOU.
WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, NAGISA.

I WON'T LET THEM CREMATE HER! I WANT TO STAY WITH HER FOREVER! LIKE I PROMISED!
THEN IT'S LIKE SHE'S STILL ALIVE!
MR. TAKI-MOTO ...

TAKI-MOTO!!
JYUNICHI...
TAKIMOTO, I THOUGHT YOU...! LET'S GO, OKAY?
I HEARD THAT...ONCE EMBALMED, SHE'LL RETAIN HER APPEARANCE FOR MANY YEARS.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PRETEND SHE'S SLEEPING.
RIGHT?

THAT WAS DIFFICULT, WASN'T IT?
THE CORPSE OF HIS LATE WIFE WAS STILL BEAUTIFUL, EVEN THOUGH 20 YEARS HAD PASSED... BUT SHE WAS CREMATED ANYWAY.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH TODAY?
WHY DO YOU THINK HE HAD HER CREMATED?
HE'D JUST REMARRIED
WHEN I WAS AN INTERN, A GUY DUG UP HIS WIFE'S GRAVE AND ASKED TO HAVE HER CREMATED
...BUT... ACTING IN THIS MANNER...
IT'S TRUE THAT FUNERALS AND EMBALMING ARE FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND...
WHAT ABOUT THE DIGNITY OF THE DECEASED?

HUH... IT LOOKS LIKE A SANDCASTLE.
WE'LL BE TOGETHER UNTIL WE DIE. AND...EVEN AFTER WE DIE. FOREVER.
YET, IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, PEOPLE CAN'T SEEM TO GIVE UP ON ETERNAL LOVE
BUT, SAD AS IT MAY BE, PEOPLE'S HEARTS AREN'T FOREVER...
IF THE EMBALMING'S DONE WELL, THE CORPSE WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOREVER.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
IF, WHEN HE DIED, HE WAS BURIED BETWEEN TWO WOMEN... THEY'D NEVER SHUT UP AND HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE.
...AND EVEN THOUGH THINGS OFTEN SEEM SO STABLE, IN TIME EVERYTHING CHANGES.

Embalming 22
Sandcastle
End

おはぎ みたらし

キャアアア
SHINJYURDU! WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S YOUR UMBRELLA?
You're naked!
.....

I HATE WHEN IT RAINS AFTER WORK.
I'M COLD ...
...BUT I'M TIRED OF EASY WOMEN.

PITTER
PATTER
DRIP
DROP
I HATE WHEN IT RAINS AFTER WORK. I'M COLO ANO SO IS AZUKI...
DRIP
PATTER
PATTER DRIP
PATTER
DROP

OH...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS RIGHT TO TAKE SHELTER FOR FREE, SO I BOUGHT SOME OHAGI. WANT SOME?
Ohagi are sweetened rice balls. Kinako is a kind made with soybean flour.
AAH! NOT THAT ONE!
I'LL TAKE THE KINAKO...

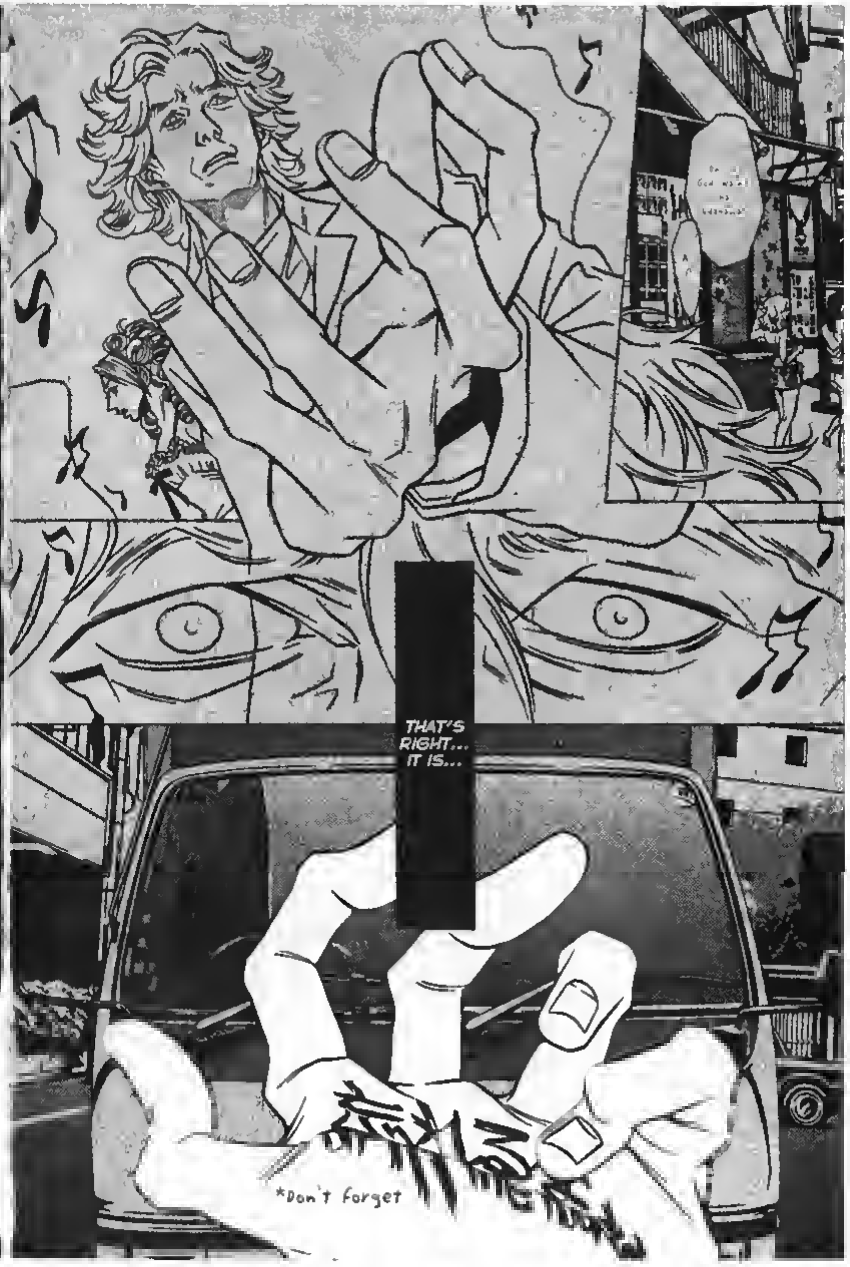
I SAID, YOU'RE GONNA GET FAT.
Heh heh!
WHEN YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF FAT, THEY HAVE TO CUT UP YOUR VEINS TO EMBALM YOU, YOU KNOW.
NO! NOT AGAIN!
EWW! STOP IT!
PITTER PATTER, PITTER PATTER...
IT'D BE NICE IF IT STAYED LIKE THIS... IF THE RAIN NEVER STOPPED.
...BUT HER HANDS FEEL WARM TO ME.
!
IT'S NOT THE WARMTH OF HER FLESH. IT'S MORE.
PIT PATTER
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
...REALLY, ONLY ONE PERSON.
ALL I WANT IS...

WHERE AM I?
WHAT IS...THE PHRASE? THE NOTES?!
SOMETHING IMPORTANT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
OH, SHUT UP!
...AND YOU KNOW! HA HA HA HA HA HA!

A WALL OF FALLING WATER...KEEPING US BOTH TOGETHER.

Embalming 23
In Out of the Rain
End

EMBALMING 24


THAT'S RIGHT... IT IS...
*Don't forget

SIGH... HIS GERMAN TITLES AND SOOTHING SOUNDS ARE SO... REFINED!
Your brother's confections are soothing! And they're definitely refined! Yeah, we've got THAT covered.

KAZUNE!

YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO HAVE THE WORLD-FAMOUS UDAGAWA AS YOUR DAD!
DOES HE PLAY THE PIANO FOR YOU?

I SAW ON TV! YOUR DAD FELL ON STAGE! IS HE OKAY?!
Ha ha ha!
HE'S TOTALLY FINE! YOU KNOW HOW THE NEWS EXAG-GERATES!

WHAAAAAT?!
IT SAYS EIJIN UDAGAWA HIT HIS HEAD AND HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED!

Ha ha ha!
HE'S, UH... REALLY POPULAR AND STUFF...
YEAH, UH...
...EVERY-ONE KNOWS HIM, RIGHT?
HA! YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHO HE IS, DO YOU?

AGING? WHO?
NO, EIJIN, DUMMY! THE GUY WHO WRITES ALL THAT SOOTHING MUSIC!
YOU DON'T KNOW HIM?

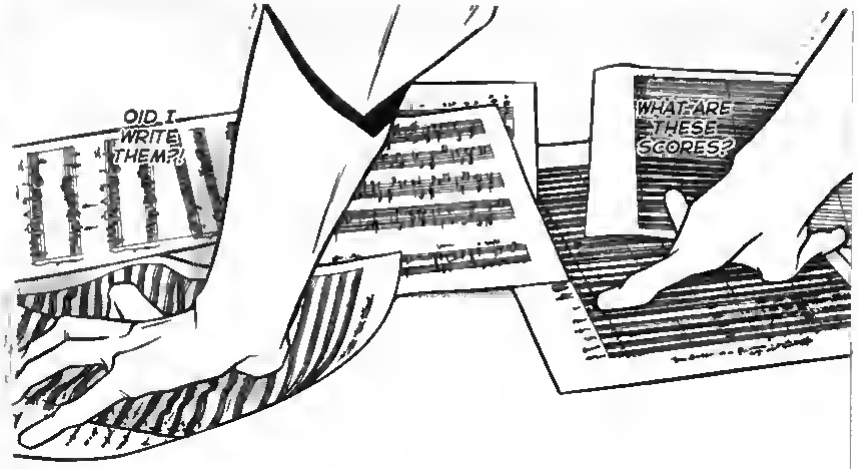
...I'VE BEEN MOVED BY MY FATHER'S MUSIC.

YEAH... WE ALL GATHER 'ROUND THE PIANO IN THE EVENING.
THAT'S A LIE.
IT'S OUR FAMILY TRADITION. IT HELPS ME SLEEP WELL.
I HAVEN'T SLEPT WELL FOR YEARS.
HEY! ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ... ALLOWED BACK HERE!
NO ONE REALLY KNOWS.
WHERE'S DADDY?
HE HAS AN IMPORTANT AWARD CEREMONY. TRY TO UNDERSTAND, OKAY?

THE DOCTOR SAYS HE CAN EXPLAIN THE RESULTS OF YOUR MRI NOW.
UH... MA'AM, MAY I HAVE A MOMENT?
YOU KNOW, THAT TEST YOU TOOK FIRST THING THIS MORNING?
.....
MRI...?
HUH?
WE'RE ALSO GETTING THE STAFF TOGETHER AND..
SO...YEAH! YOUR NEW PIECE! THE ONE WE TALKED ABOUT THIS MORNING. WE'VE GOTTEN OFFERS FROM OVERSEAS ABOUT IT!
COME ON, IT'S JUST A BUMP! THEY'RE MAKING TOO BIG A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT.
I'LL GET BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS BEFORE MY NEXT CONCERT.
MAN, IT WAS HARD TO SHAKE THE PRESS! THEY'RE RUNNING ALL THESE FATAL INJURY STORIES NOW!
DEAR?
BUT... PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
OH, GREAT!

WELL, I DON'T EXACTLY UNDERSTAND IT, BUT THEY SAY THAT ONE CAN'T REMEMBER NEW THINGS.
IN YOUR FATHER'S CASE...
...THEY SAY HE CAN ONLY RETAIN NEW MEMORIES FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ANTERO-GRADE AMNESIA?
THIS KIND OF AMNESIA. IT'S NOT LIFE THREATENING. B-BUT...

THIS IS... STUFF FOR WHILE YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL.
KAZUNE ...
WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL? YOUR MOM SHOULD BE DOING THESE THINGS.


OID I WRITE THEM?!
WHAT ARE THESE SCORES?

YES.

THAT'S THE NEW PIECE YOU TALKED ABOUT DURING BREAKFAST, RIGHT?
I DON'T REMEMBER.
I THINK THE TITLE WAS--
ENOUGH! GET OUT!
?!
OH! YOU GOT PRETTY FAR WITH YOUR WORK TODAY, DIDN'T YOU?
MR. UDAGAWA, MAY I TAKE YOUR TEMPER-ATURE?

HE'S DOING GOOD. YOU KNOW, HE SAYS...
...HE'S GOING TO WRITE ME A SONG FOR MY BIRTHDAY.
What?
YOU'RE SO LUCKY, KAZUNE!
I'M FINE WITH A FATHER MADE UP OF LIES.
YES!
QUICK! THE SEDATIVE!
DOCTOR! DOCTOR! HE'S GETTING VIOLENT AGAIN!
CRACK!
CRASH!

CAUGHT YOU BY SURPRISE, EH?
THE EFFECTS CAN MAKE HIM IRRITABLE, WITH A TENDENCY TO LOSE COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.
BUT IT'S JUST THE ILLNESS, SO YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD.
I'M FINE.
MY FATHER'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
YES, I'M TOTALLY FINE.
KAZUNE, HOW'S YOUR DAD?

I WAS SUPPOSED TO COMPOSE A VERY IMPORTANT SONG.
!
WHOA...
MY NEXT CONCERT IS IN JULY, ISN'T IT?
I HAVE TO REMEMBER
UMM... THE TITLE... IT WAS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, I THINK
MAYBE... FU... FUER MEINE TO? SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
"Fuer meine Tochter,"
SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
WHAT WAS THE TITLE?
THIS... THIS...
DID I WRITE THIS?

IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE A GENIUS IN THE FAMILY.
MR. UDAGAWA SAYS HE'S GOING TO COMPOSE HIS MUSIC IN THREE-HOUR INTERVALS.
IT'S TRAGIC. IT'S HARD JUST BRINGING HIM HIS MEALS.
KAZUNE, PLEASE DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.
DAY AFTER DAY, THERE'S NO END TO THIS.
YOUR FATHER IS AN AWKWARD PERSON, YOU KNOW HE CAN ONLY REALLY EXPRESS HIMSELF THROUGH MUSIC.
AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER THE TITLE, I CAN CONTINUE TO COMPOSE.
THIS WILL DO.
キュ・
*Don't forget
忘れ
DON'T FORGET...

FATHER'S MUSIC IS PRETTY, BUT IT'S COLD. I HATE IT. I HATE HIM.

WHERE AM I?
WHAT IS...THE PHRASE? THE NOTES?!
SOMETHING IMPORTANT. SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
OH, SHUT UP!
...AND YOU KNOW! HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HEY MAESTRO, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
MAES-TRO?
HUH?

LONG-TERM PRESERVATION REQUESTED FOR MUSICAL TRIBUTE IN TWO WEEKS
UDAGAWA, EIJIN, 52...
ACCIDENTAL DEATH CAUSED BY HIGHER BRAIN DYS-FUNCTION.
WHAT'S THIS? ENGLISH? NO. THAT'S GERMAN!
HMM?
...IT SEEMS
THE BODY IS IN GOOD CONDITION...

Oh my God! Was it that voice?
THAT'S RIGHT... IT IS...

YOU CAN REST EASY NOW, EH?
EVEN IN HEAVEN.
DON'T FORGET.

I CAN'T ERASE THIS NOW, CAN I?

HE WAS VERY DIFFICULT IN THE END, WASN'T HE?
HE WAS SO DETERMINED TO WRITE A SONG FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, BUT...
THEY... THEY MADE HIM BEAUTIFUL.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S SLEEPING, DOESN'T HE, KAZUNE?
WELL, IT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED PLEASE TELL HIM THAT.
THE TITLE OF THE PIECE WAS THE ONLY THING WE DIDN'T KNOW.
YES.
WE WILL BEGIN THE MUSICAL TRIBUTE FOR THE LATE MAESTRO, EIJIN UDAGAWA.
WE'LL BEGIN WITH HIS FINAL COMPOSITION WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENTED IN JULY.
THE PIECE IS UNFINISHED, BUT WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT. IT IS ENTITLED...
..."FUER MEINE TOCHTER."

"FOR MY DAUGHTER."
Fuer meine Tochter

TRULY.
MAGNIFICENT. IT IS ONE OF HIS BEST

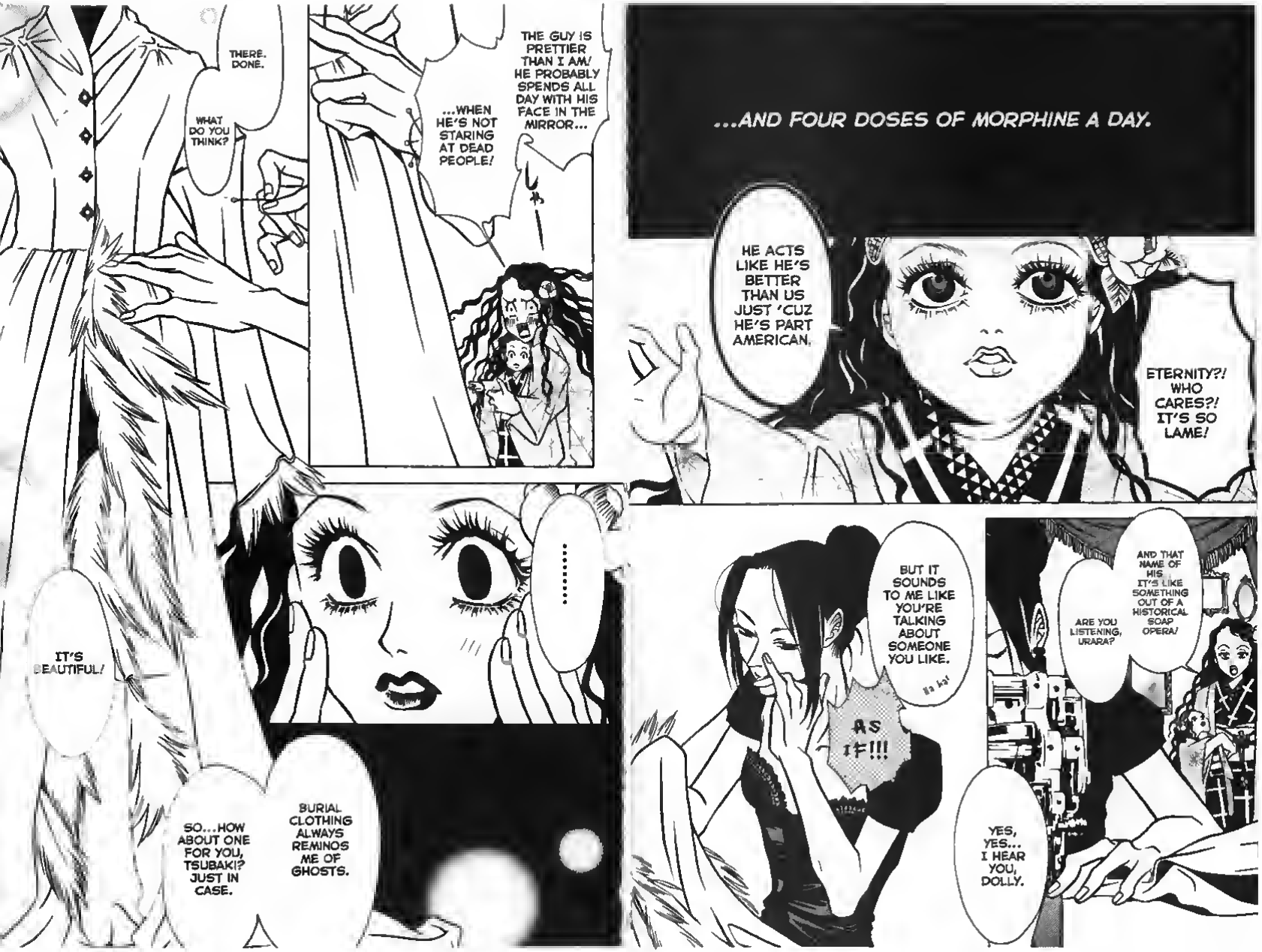
"KAZUNE..." WHAT A LOVELY NAME.

NOTE: In Japanese, the kanji for Kazune also means "Japanese sound."

Embalming 24
Unforgettable Bond
End

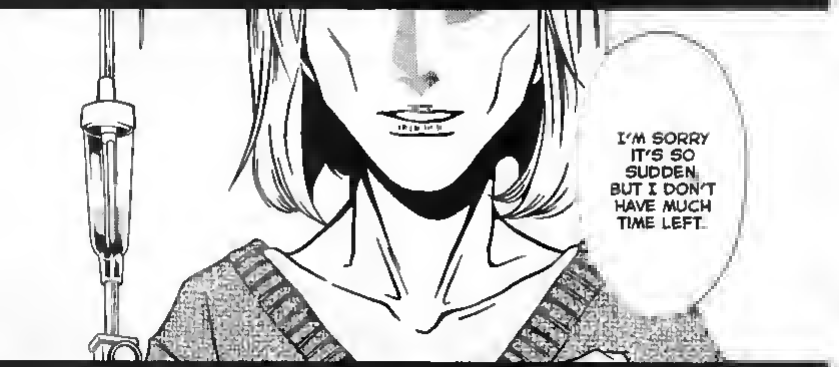
LOVELY WEATHER ISN'T IT?
THEN... HOW ABOUT SOME WINE?
I'LL ASK THE NURSE TO BRING SOME.
OH YES. I FEEL ESPECIALLY GOOD TODAY.
WOULD THIS SEEM LIKE PARADISE... IF I DIDN'T KNOW?
EVERY DAY I DO WHATEVER I WANT.
DELICIOUS MEALS, FRESH AIR...

"THERE IS NO ONE TO CRY FOR ME WHEN I DIE."
A LONELY COFFIN... WITHOUT EVEN A SINGLE FLOWER.


THERE. DONE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...WHEN HE'S NOT STARING AT DEAD PEOPLE!
THE GUY IS PRETTIER THAN I AM! HE PROBABLY SPENDS ALL DAY WITH HIS FACE IN THE MIRROR...
しゃー
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
.....
SO...HOW ABOUT ONE FOR YOU, TSUBAKI? JUST IN CASE.
BURIAL CLOTHING ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF GHOSTS.
...AND FOUR DOSES OF MORPHINE A DAY.
HE ACTS LIKE HE'S BETTER THAN US JUST 'CUZ HE'S PART AMERICAN.
ETERNITY?! WHO CARES?! IT'S SO LAME!
BUT IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE YOU LIKE.
Ha ha!
AS IF!!!
ARE YOU LISTENING, URARA?
AND THAT NAME OF HIS... IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A HISTORICAL SOAP OPERA!
YES, YES... I HEAR YOU, DOLLY.

IT'S REALLY CHEERY, ISN'T IT? ALL THE ROOMS FACE THE GARDEN.
MR. MAMIYA AND KOBAYASHI? THE EMBALMER AND FUNERAL DIRECTOR, RIGHT?
THEY TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. THIS WAY, PLEASE.
WHEN YOU THINK OF HOSPICES THERE'S THIS HEAVY IMAGE OF A PLACE TO GO WHEN YOU DIE...
...BUT THIS IS A PLACE TO LIVE. A PLACE WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT YOUR ILLNESS AND THE PAIN IS TAKEN FROM YOU
THE MAN OVER THERE WAS SHOUTING FOR US TO KILL HIM WHEN HE FIRST GOT HERE.
NOW, HE ENJOYS PLAYING HIS FAVORITE [illegible]S EVERY DAY WITH A VOLUNTEER.
I THINK I'D LIKE TO BE EMBALMED BY THAT PRETTY FRIEND OF YOURS.
WHAT?! ARE YOU CRAZY?!
I DON'T NEED ONE. I NEVER THINK ABOUT DYING.
THERE'S QUITE A DEMAND, YOU KNOW? A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO PREPARE FOR THEIR DEATHS.
.....

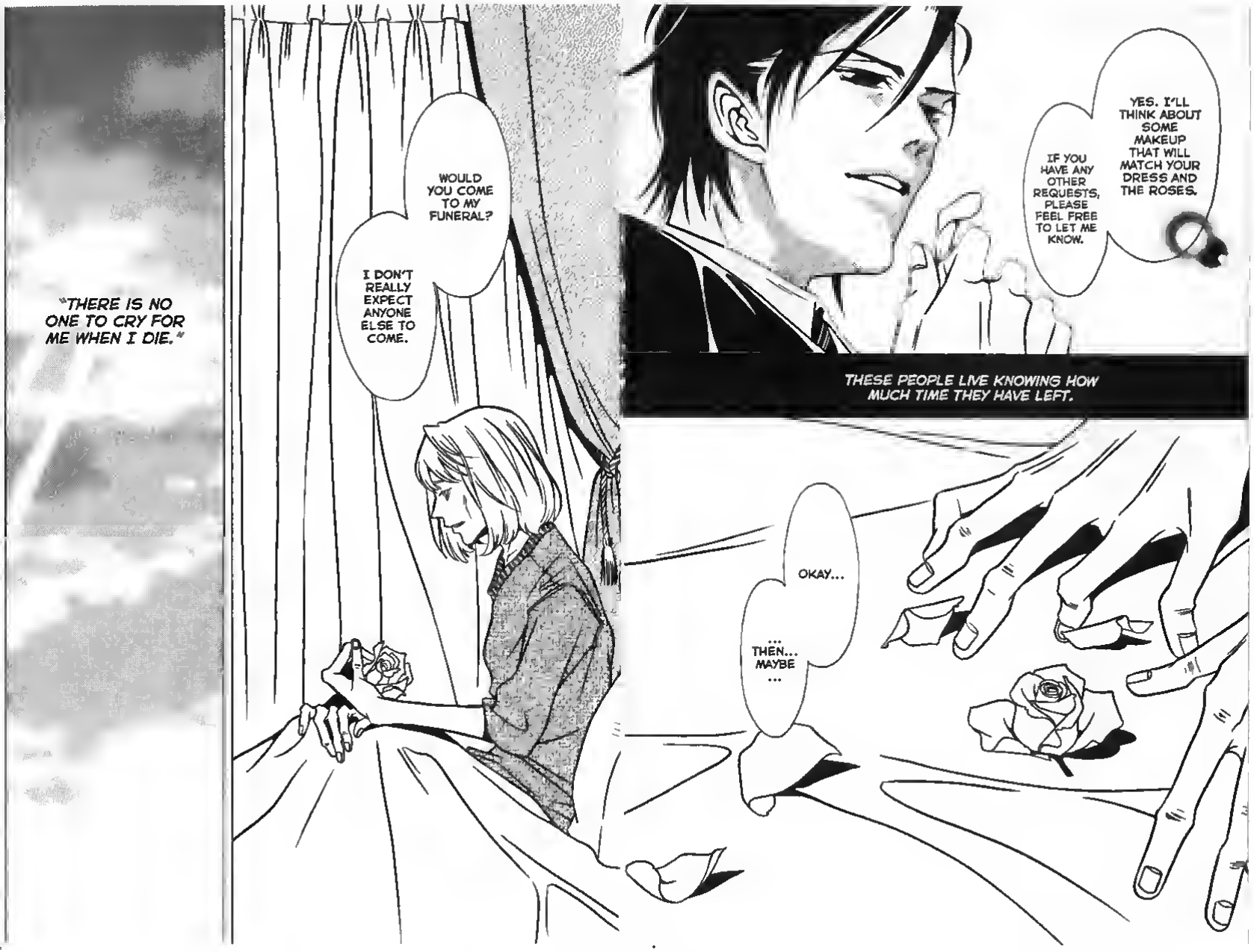
EMBALMERS DON'T USUALLY MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE DECEASED'S FAMILY...



...AND IT'S EVEN RARER TO MEET A LIVING CLIENT.

ISN'T THIS ROSE BEAUTIFUL? IT WON'T WITHER OR WILT
IT'S PRESERVED PERMANENTLY BY A SPECIAL PROCESS
I MADE THEM AS A HOBBY OVER THE YEARS. I THOUGHT I'D USE THEM FOR WEDDING FAVORS SOMEDAY.
THEY'RE USELESS NOW.
WOULD YOU PLEASE PUT THEM IN MY COFFIN?
IT'S IRONIC, ISN'T IT? MY FLOWERS WILL OUTLIVE ME.

I... I'VE NEVER WORN SUCH A PRETTY DRESS.
I'D LIKE TO BE BEAUTIFUL SINCE IT WILL BE MY LAST APPEARANCE.
NO MANY PEOPLE MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS WOODLAND BURIALS OR FOR THEIR ASHES BE SCATTERED OVER THE SEA.
IT'S THE SAME WITH DEATHMAN ORESS, AS WE CREATE OUR CLOTHING TO OUR CUSTOMER'S SPECIFICATIONS REGARDING THE DESIGN AND COLORS.
DO YOU LIKE IT?
YES, VERY MUCH.

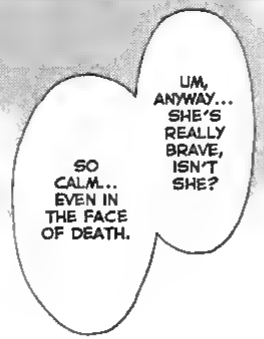

"THERE IS NO ONE TO CRY FOR ME WHEN I DIE."
WOULD YOU COME TO MY FUNERAL?
I DON'T REALLY EXPECT ANYONE ELSE TO COME.
YES. I'LL THINK ABOUT SOME MAKEUP THAT WILL MATCH YOUR DRESS AND THE ROSES.
IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER REQUESTS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LET ME KNOW.
THESE PEOPLE LIVE KNOWING HOW MUCH TIME THEY HAVE LEFT.
OKAY...
...THEN... MAYBE ...

IF A HOSPICE IS WHERE THEY HELP A PERSON LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES AND PREPARE FOR THE END... WELL, A MORTUARY ISN'T REALLY SO DIFFERENT, IS IT?
Hmph!
WEIRDO.
IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR A PERSON TO DIE WITHOUT ANYONE TO MOURN THEM.
EVERYONE IS NECESSARY TO SOMEONE, EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW IT.
USELESS, EH?
I SWEAR, THAT PSYCHOLOGY I STUDIED IN SCHOOL IS SIMPLY USELESS IN THE FIELD.
WHAT CAN I SAY TO HER...WHEN SHE ONLY HAS SIX MONTHS TO LIVE?
THAT GOT ME.
.....
SHE'S SO... DIRECT. I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY.
NO ONE TO CRY FOR HER...

DEATHMAN DRESS
DESIGNER
URARA AKIHIRO
〒167-0052
TELEFAX 03-0000-0000
Note: In Japan, Akihiro is a boy's first name

I HAVEN'T GIVEN YOU MY CARD YET, HAVE I?

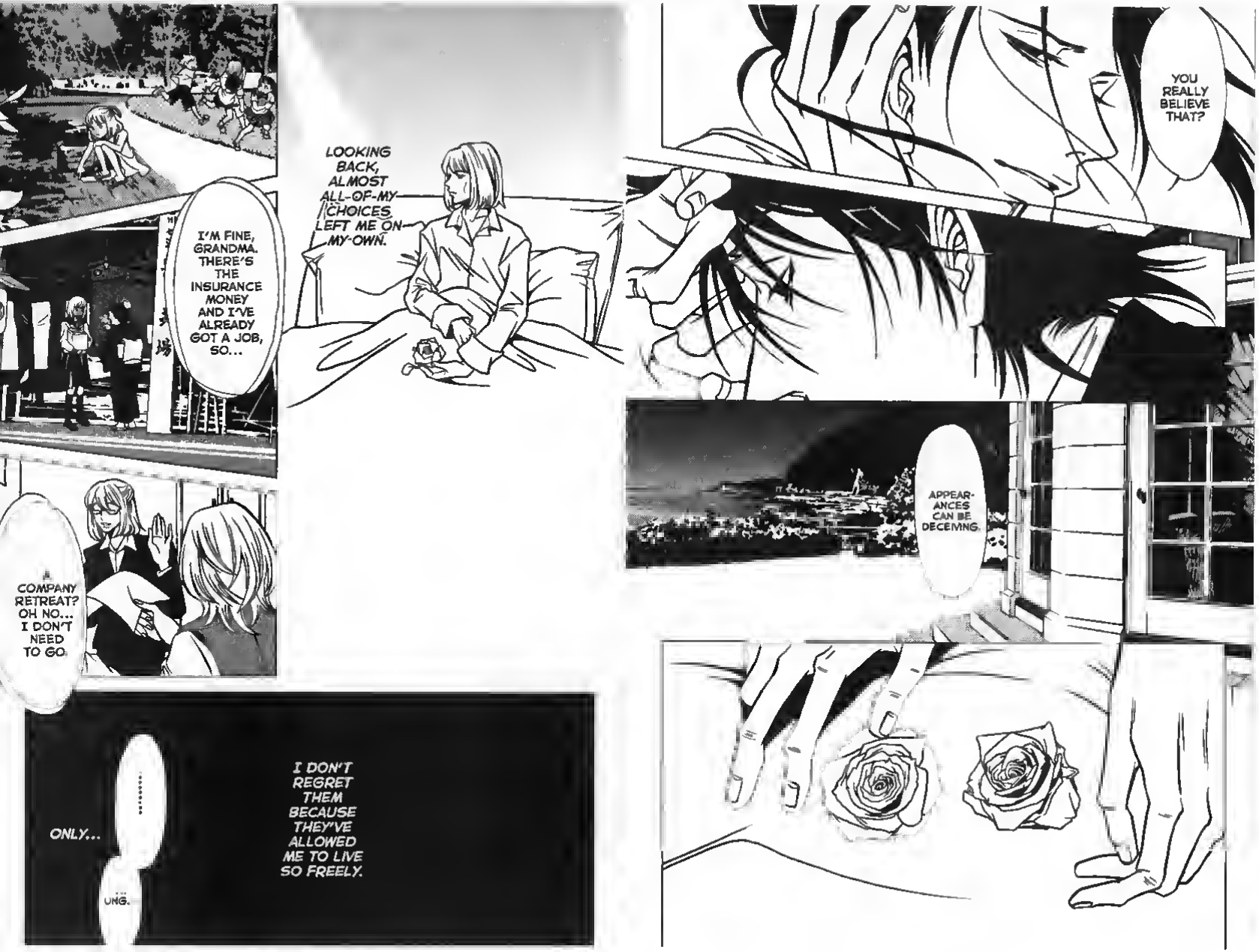
OH, DON'T SWEAT IT.
I, ERR... I DIDN'T...


UM, ANYWAY... SHE'S REALLY BRAVE, ISN'T SHE?
SO CALM... EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH.

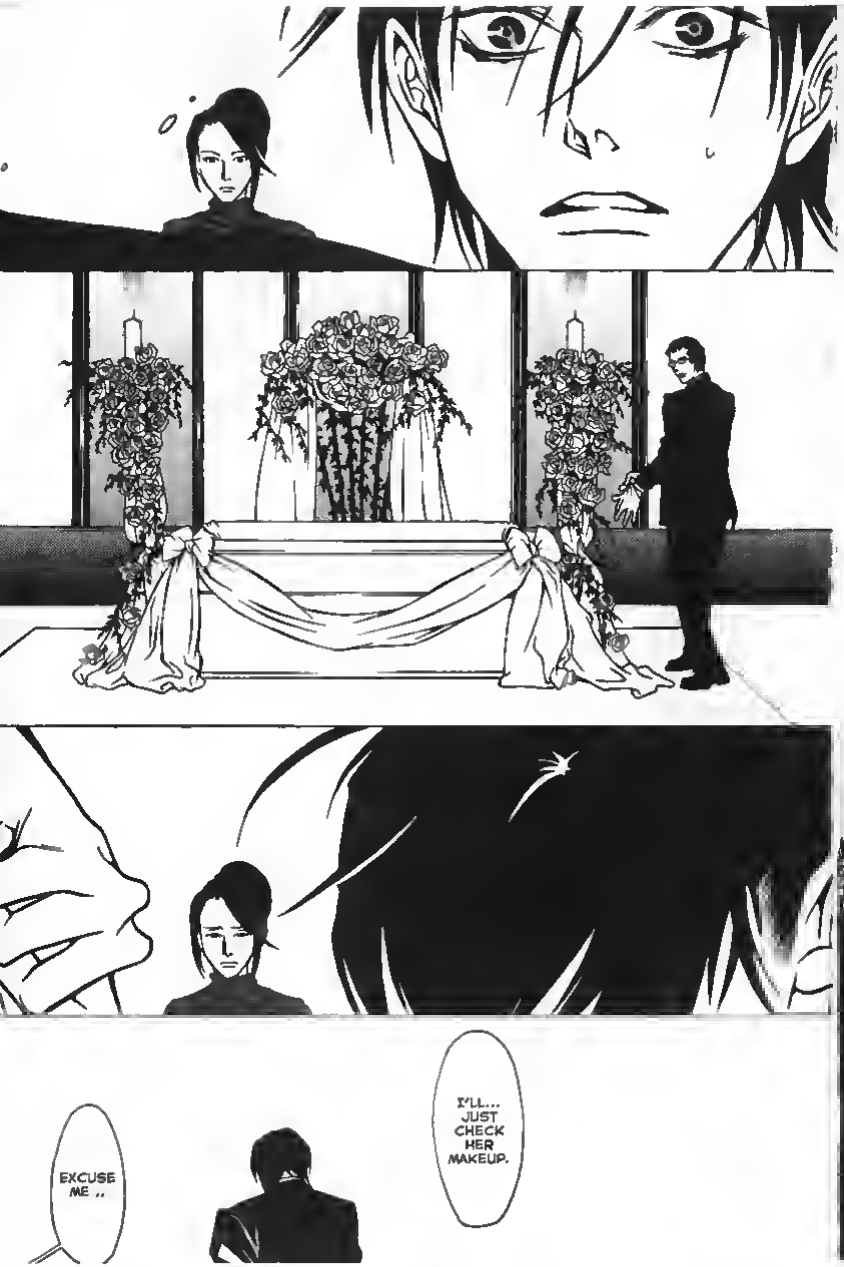
...THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO THINK.
OR AT LEAST...

TRUST ME, MS. URARA... YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET.

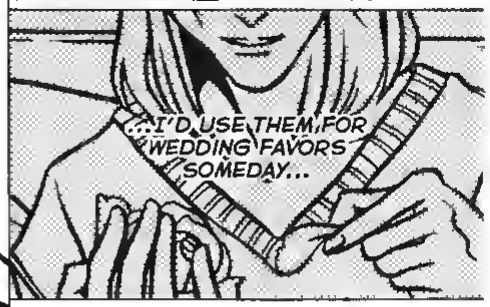
Heh heh
WELL SAID.
I COULD SEE WHY DOLLY IS SO ATTRACTED TO YOU.


I'M FINE, GRANDMA. THERE'S THE INSURANCE MONEY AND I'VE ALREADY GOT A JOB, SO...
LOOKING BACK, ALMOST ALL-OF-MY CHOICES LEFT ME ON-MY-OWN.
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
COMPANY RETREAT? OH NO... I DON'T NEED TO GO.
APPEAR-ANCES CAN BE DECEIVING.
ONLY...
...
...UNG.
I DON'T REGRET THEM BECAUSE THEY'VE ALLOWED ME TO LIVE SO FREELY.

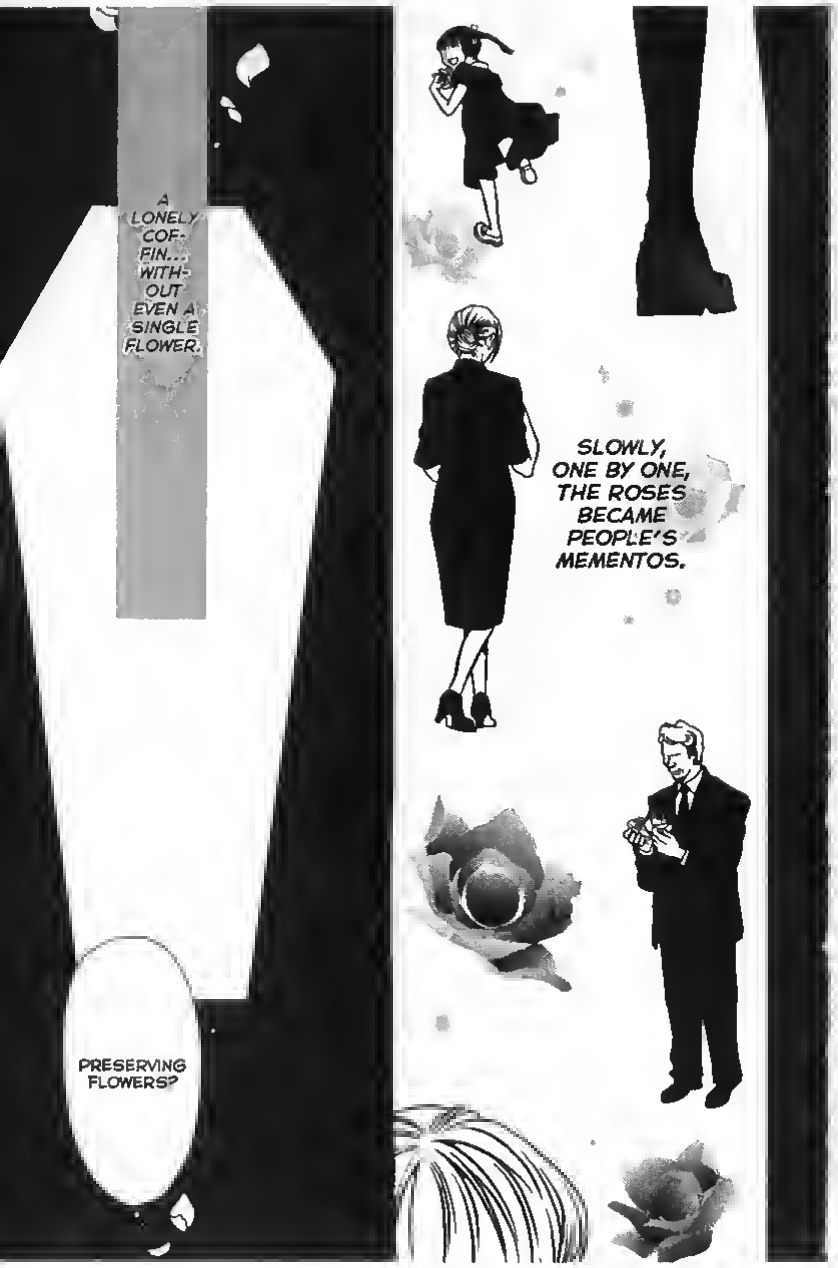
I SEE.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
CLACK
...IT'S SO LONELY TO THINK THAT I'LL DISAPPEAR AND NO ONE WILL REMEMBER ME.
I THOUGHT SHE HAD MORE TIME...
YEAH.
THREE MONTHS... IT HAPPENED EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED.


I DON'T REALLY EXPECT ANYONE ELSE TO COME...
THAT'S LIFE, ISN'T IT? PEOPLE ARE REALLY SUCH UNPREDICTABLE CREATURES.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE REALLY WANTED TO PRAY AT A FUNERAL.
The late Ms. Sumiko Shirakawa
Funeral Service
EXCUSE ME ..
I'LL... JUST CHECK HER MAKEUP.

Note: In Japan, you pay your respects to the dead by burning incense



SHE HELPED ME GET TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM WHEN MY DAUGHTER HAD A HIGH FEVER.
SHE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE SHE GREW UP WITH A SINGLE MOTHER, TOO. SHE WAS A GOOD PERSON.


A LONELY COFFIN... WITHOUT EVEN A SINGLE FLOWER.
SLOWLY, ONE BY ONE, THE ROSES BECAME PEOPLE'S MEMENTOS.
PRESERVING FLOWERS?

THIS WAY PLEASE.
PEOPLE REALLY ARE UNPREDICTABLE CREATURES, IN BOTH GOOD AND BAD WAYS...
...BUT I GUESS EVERYONE IS NECESSARY TO SOMEONE.
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, RIGHT?
EXCUSE ME...
IS THIS...MS. SHIRAKAWA'S ...?

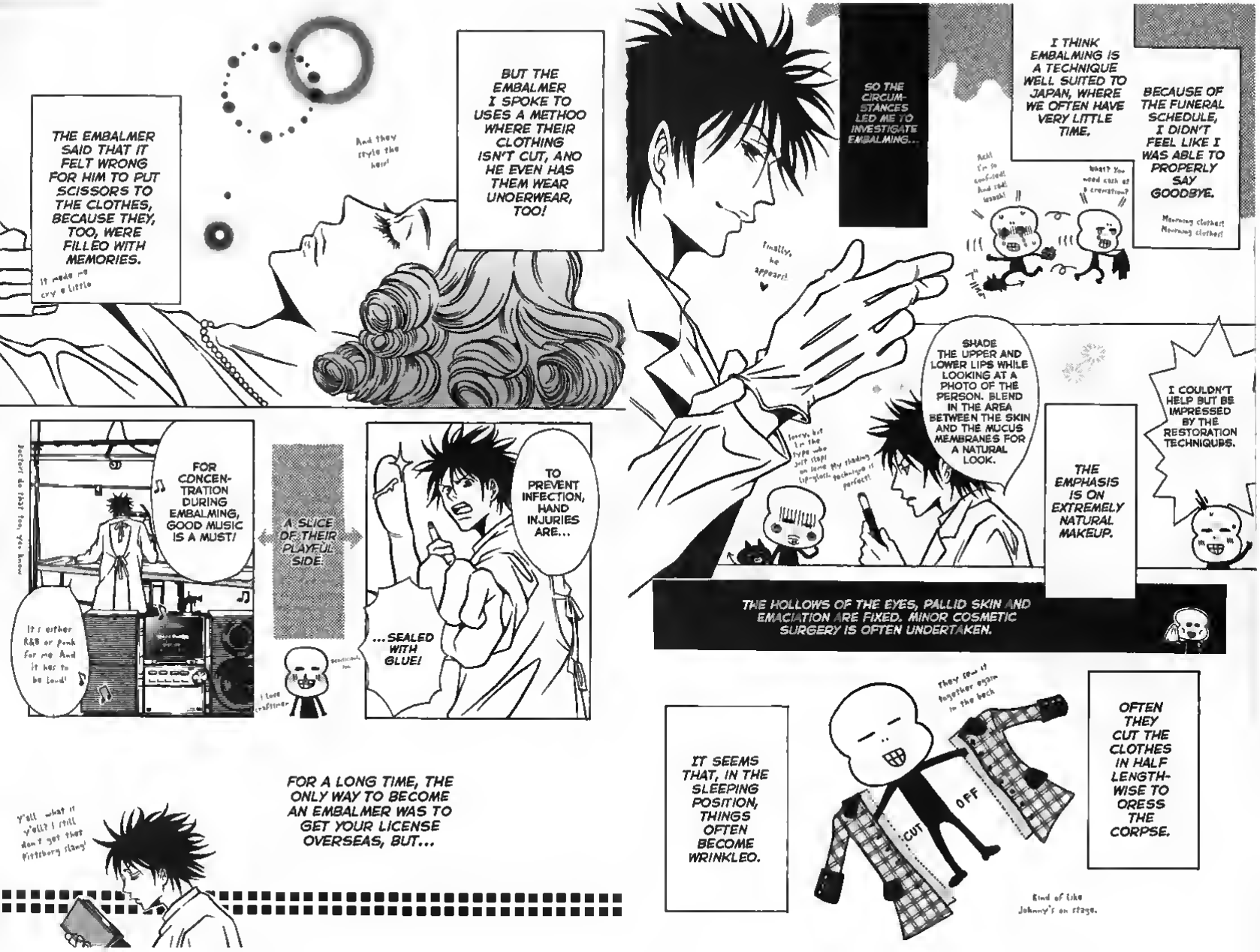
YET, IN THE END, IT WAS A BOX OVERFLOWING WITH HER HEART'S DESIRE.

Embalming 25
A Rose that Never Dies
End

GOOD AFTERNOON/ THIS IS MITSUKAZU... MAKING HER HAY [illegible] DEBUT
I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE REALITIES OF EMBALMING. BUT TO START...
...LET'S LOOK AT A QUESTION I GET ASKED A LOT.
Q: Is embalming a real job?
THERE'S NO SUCH THING...
IT REALLY DOES EXIST/ THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PRESERVE AND DISINFECT THE BODY.
THE INSPIRATION FOR CREATING THIS BOOK CAME FROM THE DEATH OF MY FRIEND.
If only I'd known about embalming then.

THE EMBALMER™

...for real!


THE EMBALMER SAID THAT IT FELT WRONG FOR HIM TO PUT SCISSORS TO THE CLOTHES, BECAUSE THEY, TOO, WERE FILLED WITH MEMORIES.
It made me cry a little
And they style the hair!
BUT THE EMBALMER I SPOKE TO USES A METHOD WHERE THEIR CLOTHING ISN'T CUT, AND HE EVEN HAS THEM WEAR UNDERWEAR, TOO!
SO THE CIRCUMSTANCES LED ME TO INVESTIGATE EMBALMING...
I THINK EMBALMING IS A TECHNIQUE WELL SUITED TO JAPAN, WHERE WE OFTEN HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME.
BECAUSE OF THE FUNERAL SCHEDULE, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE I WAS ABLE TO PROPERLY SAY GOODBYE.
Mourning clothes! Mourning clothes!
Aack! I'm so confused! And that sound!
What? You need cash at a crematorium?
Finally, he appears!
SHADE THE UPPER AND LOWER LIPS WHILE LOOKING AT A PHOTO OF THE PERSON. BLEND IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE SKIN AND THE MUCUS MEMBRANES FOR A NATURAL LOOK.
Sorry, but I'm the type who just stops on loose lipliners. My shading technique is perfect!
THE EMPHASIS IS ON EXTREMELY NATURAL MAKEUP.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY THE RESTORATION TECHNIQUES.
THE HOLLOWS OF THE EYES, PALLID SKIN AND EMACIATION ARE FIXED. MINOR COSMETIC SURGERY IS OFTEN UNDERTAKEN.
Jackets do that too, you know
FOR CONCENTRATION DURING EMBALMING, GOOD MUSIC IS A MUST!
It's either R&B or punk for me. And it has to be loud!
A SLICE OF THEIR PLAYFUL SIDE
Beautiful too.
I love traditional
TO PREVENT INFECTION, HAND INJURIES ARE...
...SEALED WITH GLUE!
FOR A LONG TIME, THE ONLY WAY TO BECOME AN EMBALMER WAS TO GET YOUR LICENSE OVERSEAS, BUT...
Y'all what if y'all'z I still don't got that Pittsburg slang!
IT SEEMS THAT, IN THE SLEEPING POSITION, THINGS OFTEN BECOME WRINKLED.
They sew it together again in the back
CUT
OFF
OFTEN THEY CUT THE CLOTHES IN HALF LENGTHWISE TO DRESS THE CORPSE.
Kind of like Johnny's on stage.

...IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S FINALLY A SCHOOL IN JAPAN WHERE YOU CAN LEARN EMBALMING!
WHAT?!
IT JUST OPENED, SILLY! IT DIDN'T EXIST WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL!
Ha ha!
...and have some weird Chinese dude hang around me?!
Why did I suffer through school in America
All those many, many years ago...
IT SEEMS THAT THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO WANT TO BE EMBALMERS IS GROWING, TOO!
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY! THANKS FOR READING! SEE YOU NEXT TIME!
What's wrong?
Many, many years ago? We're only 16 years apart!
END

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OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

DRAMA